

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-10
SSM-05 /080 W

-----211301Z 122872 /50

O R 211126Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6269
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 3609

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IS, US
SUBJECT: BEGIN AND RABIN SPEAK OUT ON U.S./ISRAELI RELATIONS

1. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS ON TELEVISION FRIDAY EVENING, BEGIN AND RABIN ADDRESSED THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE EXPECTED BEGIN GOVERNMENT. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE INTERVIEWER REGARDING WHETHER ISRAEL MUST MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S. AND TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE, BEGIN RESPONDED:

2. BEGIN TEXT: NO, I DO NOT THINK WE ARE GOING TOWARD A CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. OF COURSE, I DO NOT DETERMINE WASHINGTON'S POLICY. YET, I AM CONVINCED THAT WE, ISRAEL AND TH UNITED STATES, HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST AND THAT WE CAN EXPLAIN IT IN THE UNITED STATES. I AM CERTAINLY DOING SO NOW. I HAVE HEARD VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS. THIS MORING, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HEARD THAT THE NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE BY MR. RESTON--HE IS WELL KNOWN TO YOU, HE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMENTATORS IN
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AMERICA--TO THE EFFECT THAT IT MAY ULTIMATELY BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE SUCH A GOVERNMENT. WELL THEN, IF THIS IS DESIRABLE, THIS IS CERTAINLY GOOD. AT ANY RATE, I WANT TO CORRECT THE TERM TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE AS USED BY YOU. WHEN ONE SAYS TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE, AS MR. PERES AND MR. ALLON SAY FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IS ACTUALLY SAID? WE SAY THAT WE ARE GIVING PART OF JUDAEA AND SAMARIA AND KEEPING

PART TO OURSELVES. I WANT EVERYONE TO REMEMBER THAT THE ARABS ANSWERED WITH AN ABSOLUTE NO TO THIS. ALLON'S PLAN WAS PRESENTED TO KING HUSAYN THREE TIMES. HE SAID: TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. I THINK THAT IT IS EXACTLY THOSE USING THIS DECEPTIVE TERM WHO HAVE BLOCKED THE PATH TOWARD AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARABS.

3. I AM NOT CLAIMING THAT THE ARABS WILL ACCEPT OUR PLAN. THEY DO NOT AGREE TO ANY ISRAELI PLAN. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT THOSE WHO SAY THAT THEY WILL GIVE UP JUDAEA AND SAMARIA, WHILE THEY DO NOT AND REALLY CANNOT REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ARABS, ONLY INVITE PRESSURE-- FROM AMERICA AS WELL. THAT IS TO SAY, WE ARE TOLD: YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO WITHDRAW ENOUGH. WITHDRAW A LITTLE MORE. THE PROOF IS PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. HE MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 BORDERS WITH SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS, WHICH IS IN FACT THE FAMOUS ROGERS' PLAN, A FEW WEEKS BEFORE 17 MAY. THIS TERM IS TOTALLY DECEPTIVE. IT HAS A CERTAIN SOUND. HOW DID THE LATE ESHKOL PUT IT: EVERYONE IS FOND OF HIS OWN COMPROMISES. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT DISCUSSING LOVE HERE BUT A POLICY. THEREFORE, I WISH NOT TO USE THIS DECEPTIVE AND MISLEADING TERM. I THINK THAT WE WILL ACT TO EXPLAIN THIS MUTUAL INTEREST BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES. THERE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A CONFRONTATION, THERE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE AMERICAN PRESSURE. END TEXT.

4. THE INTERVIEWER THEN POINTED OUT THAT BEGIN'S POLICY
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WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON AND THAT NO SENATOR NOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WOULD AGREE TO THE EXTENSION OF ISRAELI LAW TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BEGIN REPLIED: BEGIN TEXT: THE PROBLEM OF IMPOSING THE LAW IS A PROBLEM INVOLVING A DISCUSSION, A SPECIAL DECISION OF THE KNESSET. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU: HAS ANY ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE EVER TOLD A SENATOR THAT JUDAEA AND SAMARIA SHOULD BY LAW, JUSTICE AND RIGHT, BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ISRAELI POLITICS? WHAT CAN YOU OR ANY OTHER ISRAELI EXPECT FROM THESE SENATORS WHEN YOU TELL ME THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE POLICY ACCORDING TO WHICH JUDAEA AND SAMARIA SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ISRAEL? SHOULD THEY BE MORE ISRAELI THAN THE ISRAELIS THEMSELVES? THEY RECEIVED LESSONS FROM MR. ALLON, MR. PERES, MR. RABIN AND MRS. GOLDA MEIR TO THE EFFECT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE UP JUDAEA AND SAMARIA. THUS, THEY HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS IN FACT A JUST POLICY SINCE THE ISRAELIS THEMSELVES PREACH IT.

5. NOW I HOPE THAT WE WILL START TO EXPLAIN IT PROPERLY
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 10 YEARS, WE WILL START TO EXPLAIN
THAT THIS IS NOT SO, THAT THE RETENTION BY ISRAEL OF
JUDAEA AND SAMARIA IS THE THING THAT GUARANTEES THE CHANCE
FOR PEACE. IF WE GIVE UP JUDAEA AND SAMARIA, THERE WILL
NOT BE ANY CHANCE FOR PEACE. WE HAVE NOT STARTED YET;
THAT IS, WE HAVE JUST STARTED. I HAVE NOT YET VISITED
PRESIDENT CARTER. I HAVE NOT YET SPOKEN BEFORE THE CONGRESS.
LET US HAVE THE POSSIBLILTY OF CARRYING OUT THIS TASK.
FOR 10 WHOLE YEARS ALL ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT
WE ARE WITHDRAWING, THAT WE WILL LEAVE JUDAEA AND SAMARIA.
MR. ALLON PRESENTED HIS OWN PLAN BEFORE THE AMERICAN
REPRESENTATIVES. THEY DO NOT ACCEPT IT. THE AMERICAN
REPRESENTATIVES HAVE NEVER SAID THAT THEY FAVOR ALLON'S
PLAN. ON THE CONTRARY, I KNOW THAT IN WASHINGTON KING
JUSAYN'S WORDS WERE SAID AGAIN--TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE THEN? I THINK THAT THE ISRAELI
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POLICY AND INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WERE TOTALLY WRONG. WE
SHOULD NOW TURN OVER A NEW LEAF. END TEXT.

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6. IN THIS INTERVIEW, RABIN COMMENTED ON THE ELECTION RESULT AND HIS VIEW OF THE REASONS FOR LABOR'S DEFEAT. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD RESUME HIS POST AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT AS OF MAY 24. HE THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENT ABOUT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ABOUT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY:
BEGIN TEXT: I READ AND HEARD TODAY SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL AS IT WERE TRY TO DELAY ARMS SUPPLY TO ISRAEL IN THE WAKE OF THE ELECTION RESULTS. I THINK THAT EVERY ISRAELI, NO MATTER WHAT HIS PARTY AFFILIATION IS, HAS TO DO HIS BEST TO STAND UP TO ANY ATTEMPT TO LINK THE GRARANTEEING OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND MILITARY POWER WITH THE CHARACTER AND COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL. SECONDLY, WITHOUT ANY RELATION TO MK MENAHEM BEGIN'S POSITIONS, I BELIEVE THAT THE ATTEMPT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AND NOT ONLY THE PRESS, TO ACCUSE HIM OF CERTAIN THINGS, TO TRY TO SLANDER HIM, MUST BE REJECTED BY EVERY ISRAELI REGARDLESS OF HIS PARTISAN AFFILAITIONS. THIRDLY, I BELIEVE THAT MK BEGIN, LIKE ANY OTHER LEADER OF ANY OTHER PARTY, DESIRES PEACE
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VERY MUCH AND WISHES TO PREVENT WAR. THE QUESTION IS NOT THE DESIRE OR WISH BUT THE POLICY AND METHOD TOWARD ACHIEVING THIS DESIRE. FOURTHLY, I ASSUME THAT IF A GOVERNMENT HEADED BY THE LIKUD IS ESTABLISHED, THEN THIS GOVERNMENT WILL HONOR ALL THE AGREEMENTS SET AND SIGNED BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND ENDORSED BY THE KNESSET. I AN REFERRING TO THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA AND THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. YET, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS SHOULD BE CLARIFIED NOW ALREADY. GENERAL IDEAS REGARDING THE FURURE WERE SOUNDED BY THE LIKUD LEADER AND OTHER LEADERS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS PROPER AND IMPORTANT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, AND COULD BE CLEAR IN ITSELF, TO CLARIFY AND REMOVE ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT MAY RISE IN THE FUTURE. TODAY, IN 11 DAYS IN FACT, THE UN MANDATE ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS SHOULD BE EXTENDED. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WILL ACT FOR THE GUARANTEEING THE CONTINUATION OF THE MANDATE ON A MUTUAL BASIS. THE WORLD WILL SURELY WANT TO KNOW WHETHER THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT, WHEN AND IF IT IS SET UP, IS INDEED FAVORABLE TO THIS AGREEMENT, WILL INDEED HONOR THIS AGREEMENT. END TEXT.

7. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, RADIO ISRAEL ANNOUNCED FRIDAY EVENING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON HAD INSTRUCTED ALL ISRAELI MISSIONS ABROAD TO UNDERTAKE EFFORTS TO COUNTER UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS AND ARTICLES ABOUT BEGIN. ALLON IS REPORTED TO HAVE NOTED THAT BEGIN WON IN A DEMOCRATIC ELECTION AND REJECTED ATTEMPTS

TO COMPARE BEGIN WITH LEADERS OF TERRORIST GROUPS.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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